GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3120
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2016
e-Governance
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a scheme for comprehensive e-governance;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
(c) the action taken by the Government to create awareness among the rural population regarding the use of information technology;
(d) whether the Government proposes to introduce legislation for preventing misuse of information technology and if so, the details thereof;
(e) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen mobile communication technologies and also to convert class rooms into smart class rooms; and
(f) the action taken by the Government on the proposal of the State Government of Kerala for IT development?

Answer

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. The Government of India is implementing Digital India programme to transform India into a digitally empowered society and a knowledge economy. The programme is being coordinated by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) and implemented by the entire Government. Digital India aims to provide the much needed thrust to the nine pillars of growth areas, namely Broadband Highways, Universal Access to Mobile connectivity, Public Internet Access Programme, e-Governance: Reforming Government through Technology, e-Kranti − Electronic Delivery of Services, Information for all, Electronic Manufacturing, IT for Jobs and Early Harvest Programmes. Various projects/schemes are being implemented under above nine pillars of Digital India to introduce comprehensive e-Governance in the country.

(c): The following schemes are being implemented by the Government to create awareness among rural population regarding the use of information technology:

(i) Digital Literacy to the masses: DeitY is implementing following two Schemes namely (a) IT Mass Literacy (National Digital Literacy Mission) and (b) 'Digital Saksharta Abhiyan' (????) under 'Digital India' for providing Digital Literacy to the masses.

(ii) Common Services Centres (CSCs): The CSCs are Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enabled kiosks with broadband connectivity to provide various Governments, private and social services at the doorstep of the citizen.

(d): The Government of India has enacted "Information Technology Act, 2000", amended in 2008 for preventing misuse of information technology. The Act provides legal framework for electronic governance by giving recognition to electronic records and digital signatures. The formations of Controller of Certifying Authorities was directed by the Act, to regulation issuing of digital signatures. It also defined cyber crimes and prescribed penalties for them.

(e): The Government of India is implementing various schemes to strengthen mobile communication technology in the country. The details of the scheme are as follows:
â€¢ Mobile Seva platform has been developed by DeitY as the core infrastructure for all Government departments and agencies in the country for enabling the availability of public services through mobile devices. It enables a Government department to integrate both web and mobile based services seamlessly and enhances the access to electronic services tremendously due to the very high penetration of mobile phones, especially in rural areas.
â€¢ 2199 mobile towers are being set up in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected States with a total estimated cost of Rs.3567.58 crore. 1517 sites are radiating as on 29.02.2016.
â€¢ The Government has approved a proposal to implement a Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region (NER). The Project envisages to provide mobile coverage to 8621 identified uncovered villages by installation of about 6673 mobile towers, installation of 321 mobile tower sites along National Highways and strengthening of transmission network in the NER. The estimated cost of implementation is Rs. 5336.18 crore. The Project would be funded from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).
â€¢ Mobile coverage to balance uncovered villages has been planned to be provided in a phased manner, subject to availability of financial resources.
â€¢ DeitY is implementing a scheme, namely "Enabling All Schools with Virtual Class Rooms" to convert classrooms into smart classrooms. The project will enable the school teachers to reach at far locations without physical presence and on the other hand empower the student to be taught by subject expert sitting at far end. The project aimed at creating smart virtual classroom facilities in 3500 schools & 50 District Institute of Education & Training (DIETs) across 7 states.

(f): The Government of India is supporting the Government of Kerala in the successful adoption of e-Governance through technical consulting and financial assistance to multiple programmes. Few of the key initiatives supported by DietY includes:
â€¢ E-District project is being implemented as a state Mission Mode Project (MMP) to provide various citizen centric services

including e-Services of Revenue department and Forest department. 30,000 e-Certificates are being issued on a daily basis and so far over 1.8 crore e-Certificates have been issued through e-District MMP.
â€¢ E-Office is being implemented in various Secretariat, Collectorate and Line Departmental offices in the state of Kerala.
â€¢ Financial and Technical consultancy for Cloud enablement in the second State Data Centre to offer e-Governance Services in Kerala
â€¢ NOFN is being implemented as a core infrastructure project to connect all the Gram Panchayats in the country using high speed optical fibre. Kerala is the first state in the country to achieve 100% NOFN connectivity in all Gram Panchayats.
â€¢ NKN is core infrastructure project of the Government of India to connect major academic, research and educational institutions in the state with high speed optical fibre.
â€¢ Thiruvananthapuram is one the pilot district chosen for National Information Infrastructure project to connect all the networks such as Kerala State Wide Area Network (KSWAN), NKN and NOFN for improved availability, reliability and bandwidth.
â€¢ MG University, Kerala has been selected as one of the 20 universities in the country to conduct Digital India Workshop.

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